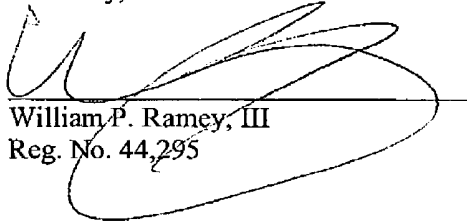


#### IV. REMARKS AND CONCLUSION

This preliminary amendment is made before the mailing date of the first office action. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the entering of the amendment prior to examination on the merits. Said amendment is being made to place the claims in condition for examination in the US and is not being made for any reason related to patentability under 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103, and/or 112. No estoppel should result from said amendment. No new matter is being added.

The application is believed in a condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests such action. If the Examiner feels that an interview may best further the prosecution of the case, Applicant extends an invitation for the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney for any assistance in securing allowance of this application. Please charge deposit account number 02-2334 for any required fees and to credit any credits.

Sincerely,



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